

## Message Text

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13  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
----- 122244  
O 120835Z FEB 75  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3107

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 1665

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF, JCS, CSAF, CSA, USCINCEUR

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGE: MASS PINS PFOR ET  
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AIR SHIPMENT OF AMMUNITION

REF: STATE 030364

SUMMARY. AS DIRECTED IN REFTTEL, CHMAAG TOOK INITIATIVE TO  
EXPLORE SUBJECT WITH MOD ON FEBRUARY 11. LATTER, HOWEVER, AS  
YET IN NO POSITION PRESENT HIS NEEDS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT 1230 HOURS FEBRUARY 11 CHMAAG MET WITH MOD AYALEW TO DIS-  
CUSS AMMUNITION SITUATION. CHMAAG INFORMED MOD THAT HE HAD  
LEARNED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER KIFLE HAD INFORMED THE USG OF  
POTENTIAL PROBLEM OF AMMUNITION SHORTAGES IF INTENSITY OF  
OPERATIONS CONTINUES IN ERITREA AND THAT HE WAS PRESENT TO  
ASSURE MOD OF USMAAG ASSISTANCE IN PROCESSING ANY AMMUNITION  
REQUESTS.

2. MOD REPLIED THAT AT DIRECTION OF PMAC CHAIRMAN BG TEFERI  
BANTI HE HAD ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO FOREIGN MINISTER KIFLE TO  
DISCUSS SUBJECT IN WASHINGTON "WHILE HE WAS THERE." MOD SAID  
THAT HE HAD INTENDED TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT LATER WITH CHMAAG  
WHEN HE HAD APPROPRIATE DATA AT HAND. HE STATED HE STILL DID  
NOT HAVE NECESSARY DATA BUT WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH CHMAAG WHEN

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THEY DETERMINED THEIR REQUIREMENTS.

3. CHMAAG THEN TOLD MOD THAT EXCEPT FOR SOME NAVY AMMUNITION, THERE IS NO FUNDED AMMUNITION DUE IN UNDER MAP AND THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD BEEN ADVISED THAT THE PREFERRED METHOD OF PAYMENT FOR ADDITIONAL AMMUNITION WOULD BE BY CASH. CHMAAG TOLD MOD HE WAS SURE THAT BOTH AGREED THAT THIS WAS PREFERABLE SINCE ANY ADJUSTMENT IN THE VERY LIMITED MAP WOULD ONLY CREATE OTHER SIMILAR SHORTAGES ELSEWHERE REQUIRING ACTION. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION IN AMHARIC WITH VICEMIN KIFLE, HE SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND AND SAID HE WOULD MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CASH TO BE AVAILABLE. CHMAAG POINTED OUT THAT HE FELT TIME COULD BE SAVED ON ANY REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AMMUNITION IF IT WERE INITIALLY MADE IN FORM OF A LETTER OF INTENT TO BUY. MOD AGREED. CHMAAG STATED THAT HE WOULD EXPEDITE ANY REQUESTS HE RECEIVED FOR CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON.

4. CHMAAG TOLD MOD THAT REQUESTS FOR AMMUNITION COULD PROBABLY BE PROCESSED FASTER IF USMAAG WERE PROVIDED THE PERTINENT INVENTORY/EXPENDITURE DATA FOR APPLICABLE ITEM AT TIME OF REQUEST. MOD AGREED.

5. CHMAAG THEN STATED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER HAD ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF AIR SHIPMENT OF AMMUNITION AND HAD BEEN TOLD THAT SUCH WAS FEASIBLE. CHMAAG THEN STATED THAT SUCH SHIPMENT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE AT EPMG EXPENSE AND, REMINDING THE MOD OF HOW EXPENSIVE A RECENT SHIPMENT OF TIRES HAD BEEN, STRESSED THAT THE DECISION TO AIRSHIP DESERVES CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

6. THE DISCUSSION OF AMMUNITION TERMINATED WITH FURTHER ASSURANCES FROM CHMAAG OF ASSISTANCE IN PROCESSING REQUESTS AND WITH THE MOD THANKING CHMAAG FOR HIS VISIT AND REQUESTING THAT HIS PERSONAL THANKS BE RELAYED TO WASHINGTON FOR THE HELPFUL RESPONSE.

7. CHMAAG THEN PROBED GENTLY FOR INFORMATION ON ERITREAN OPERATION. MOD WAS RETICENT TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT BEFORE HIS "GENERALS" RETURNED WITH THE FACTS. HOWEVER, MOD (OR VICEMIN KIFLE IN SOME CASES) DID STATE THAT:

A. THERE IS GREAT CONCERN BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT SUDAN IS AGAIN SUPPORTING THE ELF/PLF AND ARAB SUPPORT IS SECRET

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STILL STRONG.

B. THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN AS MANY AS 100 INSURGENTS INVOLVED IN THE JANUARY 31 ACTION IN ERITREA. SIXTY-FOUR DEAD ELF/PLF WERE IDENTIFIED.

C. THE FIRE DISCIPLINE OF GOVERNMENT TROOPS IN ERITREA WAS VERY POOR UNTIL BG GETACHEW (COMMANDER OF GROUND FORCES) WENT UP AND CORRECTED SITUATION.

D. THE ACTION DURING THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 10 INVOLVED AT

LEAST 100 INSURGENTS IN ASMARA, AROUND THE ASMARA AIRPORT AND THE KAGNEW TRACTS.

8. MOD ENDED MEETING BY TELLING CHMAAG HE WAS ACCEPTING HIS INVITATION TO ACCOMPANY CHMAAG TO DIRE DAWA ON FEBRUARY 12 TO OBSERVE MTT SUPERVISED LIVE FIRING OF NEW SP-155 MM BATTALION. HE COMMENTED THAT HE LIKED "TO GO TO THE FIELD."  
WYMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDEES.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AMMUNITION, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 12 FEB 1975  
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